

Serial No. 10/519,856
Art Unit 2167

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Docket PU020329
Customer No. 24498

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended) A method for managing at least one storage device,
comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~(a)~~ identifying the at least one storage device;

~~(b)~~ establishing a database containing information about the identified at least one storage device, wherein the information about the identified at least one storage device includes operating characteristics of the identified at least one storage device;

~~(c)~~ providing to the user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the identified at least one storage device for the user to select at least one of (i) display of the information about the identified at least one storage device and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the at least one storage device;

~~(d)~~ processing the user-selected menu option, said processing further including:

determining if ~~[[the]]~~ a requested execution of the at least one process complies with ~~the operational~~ configuration rules for the identified at least one storage device, and if not, blocking execution of the at least one process, and generating an error message, the configuration rules determined in accordance with the information in the database;

and

(e) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the user-selected menu option.

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2.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~step of~~ identifying the at least one storage device comprises ~~the step of~~ ascertaining a manufacturer and model number for the at least one storage device.

3.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~step of~~ establishing a database comprises ~~the step of~~ obtaining information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the at least one storage device.

4. (Canceled)

5.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~step of~~ providing a graphical user interface includes ~~the steps of~~:

displaying icons representative of each identified at least one storage device in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and

displaying information in a second pane related to a corresponding one of the icons displayed in the first pane.

6.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~steps (d) and (e)~~ the processing and automatically updating are repeated following receipt of each subsequent menu selection made by a user.

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7.(currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for managing at least one storage device, comprising:

a database containing information about the at least one storage devices,
wherein the information about the at least one storage device includes operating characteristics of the at least one storage device; and
a processor coupled to the at least one storage device for (a) identifying the at least one storage device; (b) providing to a user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the identified at least one storage device for the user to select at least one of (i) display of information about the identified at least one storage device and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the at least one storage device; (c) processing the user-selected menu option, by (i) determining if ~~[[the]]~~ a requested execution of the at least one process complies with the operational configuration rules for the identified at least one storage device, and if not, (ii) blocking execution of the at least one process; and (iii) generating an error message, the configuration rules determined in accordance with the information in the database; and
(d) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the user-selected menu option.

8.(previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor identifies the at least one storage device by ascertaining its manufacturer and model number.

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9.(currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the database contains information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the at least one storage device.

10. (Canceled)

11.(previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor provides the graphical user interface by (a) displaying icons representative of each identified at least one storage devices in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and (b) displaying information in a second pane related a corresponding one of the icons displayed in a first pane.